



Free e-News from your Hayward Fire Department-

Preparing Before an Earthquake

The Hayward Fire Department was recently chosen to help present information to the public on disaster preparedness. To listen to this [KCBS Radio Podcast on Disaster Preparedness click here](#).

We know why earthquakes occur here. Two of the earth's largest tectonic plates meet and slowly move past one another here in the Bay Area on average about 5mm a year. Did you know that fewer than 10% of households have any type of disaster plans while at least eight faults in the Bay Area are capable of producing earthquakes of magnitude 6.7 or greater? There are many things to think about prior to a large-scale earthquake:

- Your home may be damaged/condemned and unsafe to live in
- Your children may be at school while family members are at work
- Roads may be impassable due to heavy traffic, damaged overhead BART tracks and overpasses
- Water will be in short supply
- Utilities may be unavailable for days if not weeks.
- Gasoline may not be pumped due to electricity needed for the pumps or a shortage due to supply
- Garbage and sewer services may be interrupted for some time
- Your financial situation could worsen, your income may be affected by the payroll and electronic direct deposits delayed, credit cards will not be read by electronic readers
- Rental housing may be unavailable due to high demand and damage
- Pets are not allowed in Red Cross Shelters and most shelters in general

These are just a few things that could immediately impact your life. Having a good plan now, practicing it, will help determine the outcome for you and your family after a quake has struck. Overall, it's not only *what* you do, but *why* to do it. It's done so you and your family are safe, have peace of mind, so you are in control and being responsible. The idea is that you survive, recover, so you can get back to normal faster, becoming the next survival story.

Typically 55% of the injuries sustained in a quake are not from structural collapse but from objects within the structure such as objects that could fall off the shelves. Use museum wax or earthquake putty under items that will go on shelves. Keep heavy or breakable items on lower shelves to help in avoiding serious injuries. Secure your home against the shaking by holding a home earthquake drill, putting together a disaster supply kit, bolting large furniture such as a bookcase to the wall studs. Be sure to secure hanging objects such as mirror's, and framed pictures by using closed hooks or hang soft items in areas of seating.

When the shaking begins know how to “**Drop, Cover and Hold-on**” and continue to hold until the shaking stops!



www.Dropcoverholdon.org

Remember that methods like standing in a doorway, running outside, and "triangle of life" ***are all considered dangerous and are not recommended.***

Different geographical areas in the East Bay have added threat-disasters that you also need to be made aware of. To see what the threat of a disaster to your area, such as Earthquake, active faults, liquefaction, flood, wildfire, landslide, tsunamis etc. Go to: [Association of Bay Area Governments-Earthquake and Hazards program](#) for more information that will help you prepare.

For more information on Disaster Preparedness and safety related materials, please see our website at: www.hayward-ca.gov click on the red “Disaster Preparedness” button or contact the Hayward Fire Department Emergency Services Office for additional information at (510) 583-4948.